



EXTRA

Criminal & Juvenile Justice Information Advisory Group Meeting August 9, 2019

Volume 4 Issue 2

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Have a question or suggestion?

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Advisory Group Roundtable Discussion

The Advisory Group opened its August 9, 2019, meeting with a roundtable during which members provided updates from the organization or association they represent about criminal justice information sharing initiatives, projects or related topics.

Courts

Representatives of the Minnesota Judicial Branch discussed two projects in the works for improving the accessibility of information relevant to law enforcement.

- An update to NCIC will provide more detailed information for eCitations, improving accuracy and reducing eCitation rejections. The make and model of vehicles will be made available in the system with federal codes. The implementation date for this project is yet to be determined.
- A collaborative project with the BCA will allow harassment restraining orders (HROs) to be reported to local law enforcement agencies as well as the FBI. Currently, only Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders (DANCOs) are reported to federal systems. This improvement will allow local law enforcement to access HROs through BCA record checks. Implementation is expected at the end of 2019.

Members of the Minnesota Association for Court Management voiced support for these initiatives and more consistent, unified business practices.

Audio/video storage

Advisory Group members discussed the limitations of current systems for storing audio/video data for cases, and the drawbacks of certain solutions such as Evidence.com. Members mostly agreed that data storage it is a growing problem, but no immediate solutions or initiatives were endorsed.

The BCA is looking into the secure transfer of large files.

BCA updates

The BCA announced that several projects are moving forward:

- The BCA will demo the civil commitment data pass at the next Advisory Group meeting (depending on timing of the new vehicle system to replace MNLARS). The pass will provide law enforcement a notification that civil commitment data exists on a person as part of a standard query. Statewide implementation is planned before the end of the year.
- The BCA has received funding to replace the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), and is currently in the RFP phase.
- The BCA has also received funding to enhance cyber security and to meet FBI compliance requirements.

Hennepin County

Hennepin County will begin entering juvenile data into state systems in May 2020. The county will integrate its out-of-home juvenile system to give facilities housing juveniles access to criminal history data. The project is in the pilot stage now. Hennepin County is also developing a list of standardized probation and parole documents to assist tracking from the county's system to MNCIS. All other Minnesota counties already enter juvenile data.

Note: The information in this publication is an unofficial summary of activity. It should not be considered official meeting minutes or an official program status report. Information subject to change.

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Corrections

The Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking law enforcement status for its Office of Special Investigations (OSI). This would allow OIS personnel access to law enforcement data and systems.

Advisory Group members discussed the issue of questioned identity of offenders. Two central problems were identified: (1) people with multiple aliases or name spellings/translations, and (2) people with no apparent identity, documentation, or records. Biometric identification would help solve the issue, but public appetite for more government data collection and sharing does not exist at this time.

Welcome New and Returning Members!

The Advisory Group welcomed one new member and one returning member at its August 2019 meeting.

- Safia Kahn re-joins the Advisory Group in her new role – as a designee representing the Department of Corrections. Kahn had served as a public member since 2014.
- Barbara Carson is the Advisory Group's newest public member. Carson is professor emeritus with the Sociology and Corrections Department at Minnesota State University Mankato.

Welcome to both of you!

Subcommittee Breakouts and Reports

The Advisory Group subcommittees broke off into individual groups for one hour to discuss priorities and hot topics and plan for future meetings. Afterward, the chairs of each subcommittee reported back the Advisory Group.

Data Practices

The subcommittee wants to include three questions on the University of Minnesota's statewide survey regarding public opinions on privacy and government agency data sharing. They hope to learn information that will help them alleviate legislative resistance to simplifying data practices laws. The results of the survey will be available by spring 2020, allowing the following summer and fall for developing legislative proposals.

Data & Identification Standards

The subcommittee reported meeting with BCA staff to discuss the identification process at various points of contact for different levels of offenses (e.g., gross misdemeanor, felony). Members created flowcharts to

understand how the process works in different criminal justice realms.

The subcommittee discussed how community support — and a legislative solution — will be critical to implementing identity verification through biometrics.

Collaborative Relationships & Funding

The subcommittee announced that the Advisory Group is nearing full strength. One senator and two sheriff seats remain open. Legislative relationships will continue to be sought.

Members are also encouraged to use the "Issue Submittal Form" on the Advisory Group Website to submit any issues they'd like the Advisory Group to consider in a more formal manner.

Advisory Group Announcements

- Members are encouraged to submit a [Legislative Budget Request Form](#) (PDF) if they have any funding requests that they would like the Advisory Group to support.
- An updated Path to Integration, which documents the history and accomplishments of integrating Minnesota criminal justice data, will be available for the November 2019 meeting.

Next Advisory Group Meeting

Friday, November 8, 2019

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Room W277

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